

Animals	
Macro	Subsisting largely on plant materials
	Small mammals—squirrels, gophers, woodchucks, mice
	Insects—springtails, ants, beetles, grubs, etc.
	Millipedes
	Sowbugs (woodlice)
	Mites
	Slugs and snails
	Earthworms
	Largely predatory
	Moles
	Insects—many ants, beetles, etc.
	Mites, in some cases
	Centipedes
	Spiders
Micro	Predatory or parasitic or subsisting on plant residues
	Nematodes
	Protozoa
	Rotifers

Plants	
Roots of higher plants	
Algae	
	Green
	Blue-green
	Diatoms
Fungi	
	Mushroom fungi
	Yeasts
	Molds
Actinomycetes of many kinds	
Bacteria	
Aerobic	Autotrophic
	Heterotrophic
Anaerobic	Autotrophic
	Heterotrophic

Table 2.10: Groups of organisms commonly present in soils.

munities than relatively homogenous plant communities, such as meadows. As a result of the complex spatial and temporal relationships that exist between floral and faunal communities, current ecological characteristics of

these communities reflect the recent historical (100 years or less) physical conditions of the landscape.

The quantity of terrestrial vegetation, as well as its species composition, can directly affect stream channel characteristics. Root systems in the streambank can bind bank sediments and moderate erosion processes. Trees and smaller woody debris that fall into the stream can deflect flows and induce erosion at some points and deposition at others. Thus woody debris accumulation can influence pool distribution, organic matter and nutrient retention, and the formation of microhabitats that are important fish and invertebrate aquatic communities.

Streamflow also can be affected by the abundance and distribution of terrestrial vegetation. The short-term effects of removing vegetation can result in an immediate short-term rise in the local water table due to decreased evapotranspiration and additional water entering the stream. Over the longer term, however, after removal of vegetation, the baseflow of streams can decrease and water temperatures can rise, particularly in low-order streams. Also, removal of vegetation can cause changes in soil temperature and structure, resulting in decreased movement of water into and through the soil profile. The loss of surface litter and the gradual loss of organic matter in the soil also contribute to increased surface runoff and decreased infiltration.

In most instances, the functions of vegetation that are most apparent are those that influence fish and wildlife. At the landscape level, the fragmentation of native cover types has been shown to significantly influence wildlife, often favoring opportunistic species over those requiring large blocks of contiguous habitat. In some systems, relatively